

The background of the image is a warm, golden-hued sky at sunset or sunrise. On the left side, the dark silhouette of a church steeple with a pointed roof and a small cross on top is visible. In the foreground and middle ground, the intricate, dark silhouettes of bare trees with many thin branches are spread across the lower half of the image. The overall mood is peaceful and spiritual.

THE CHURCH:

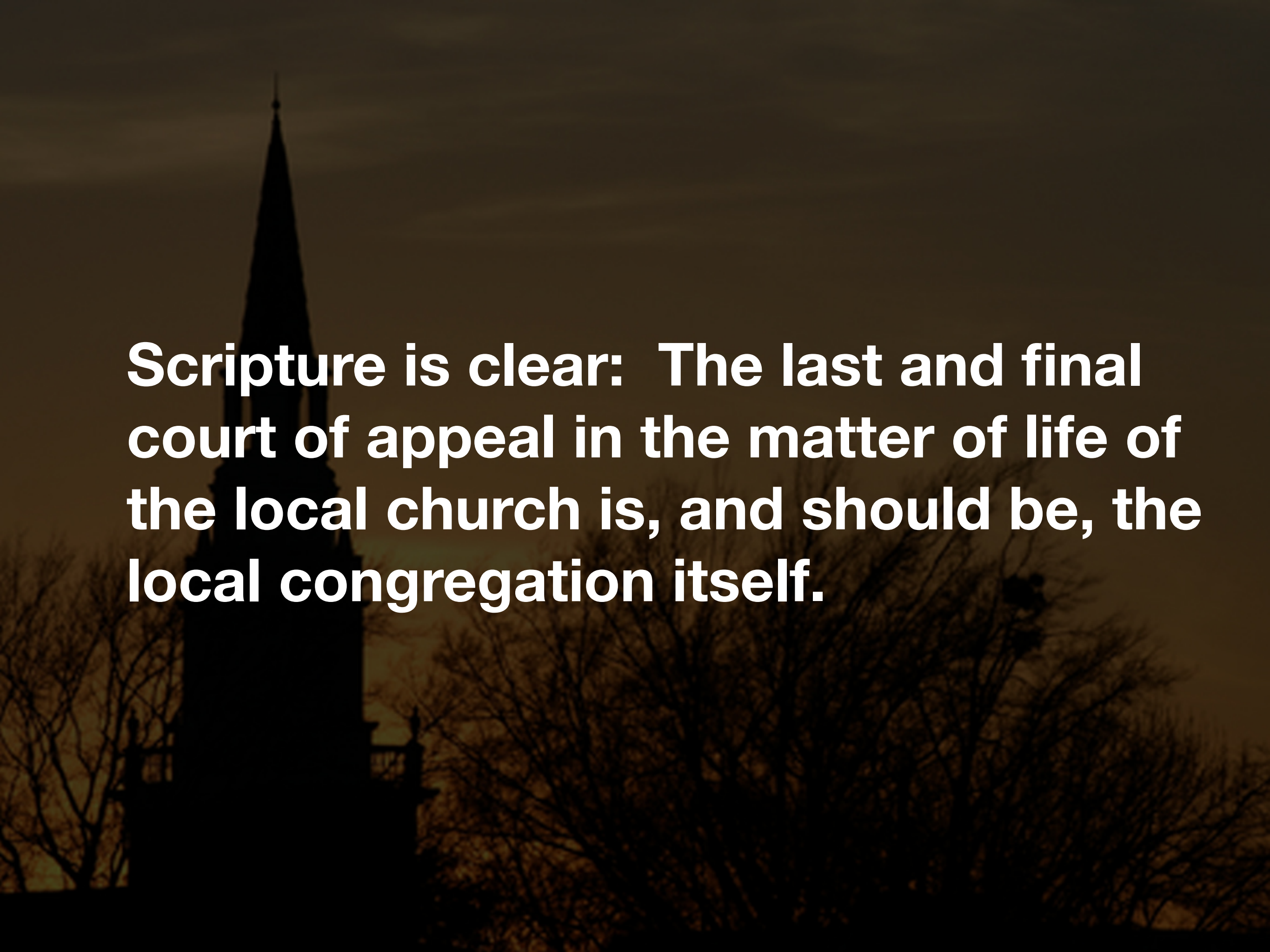
A DISPLAY OF GOD'S GLORY

The Bible's Blueprint For Church Organization

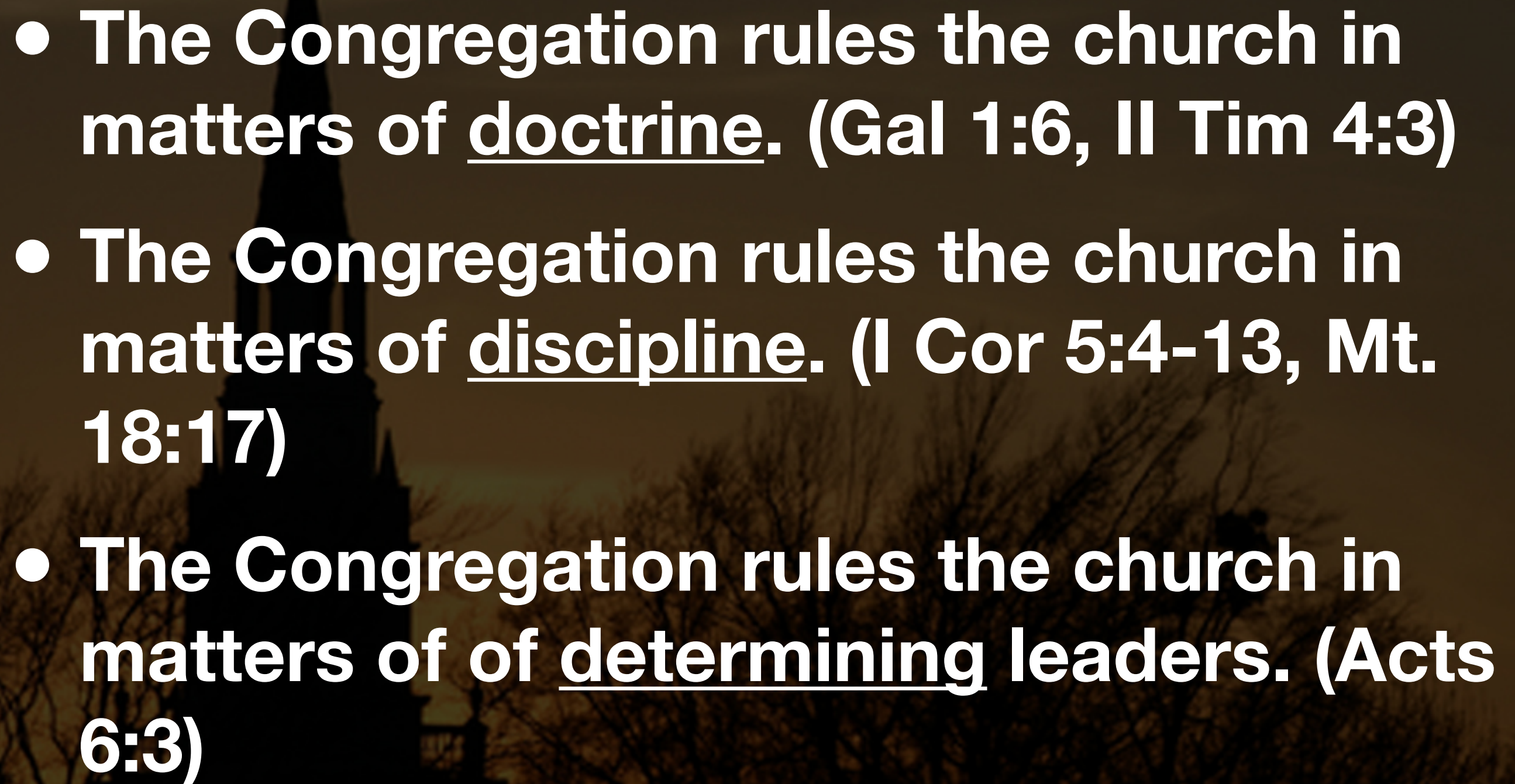
Three Layers of leadership within the local church:

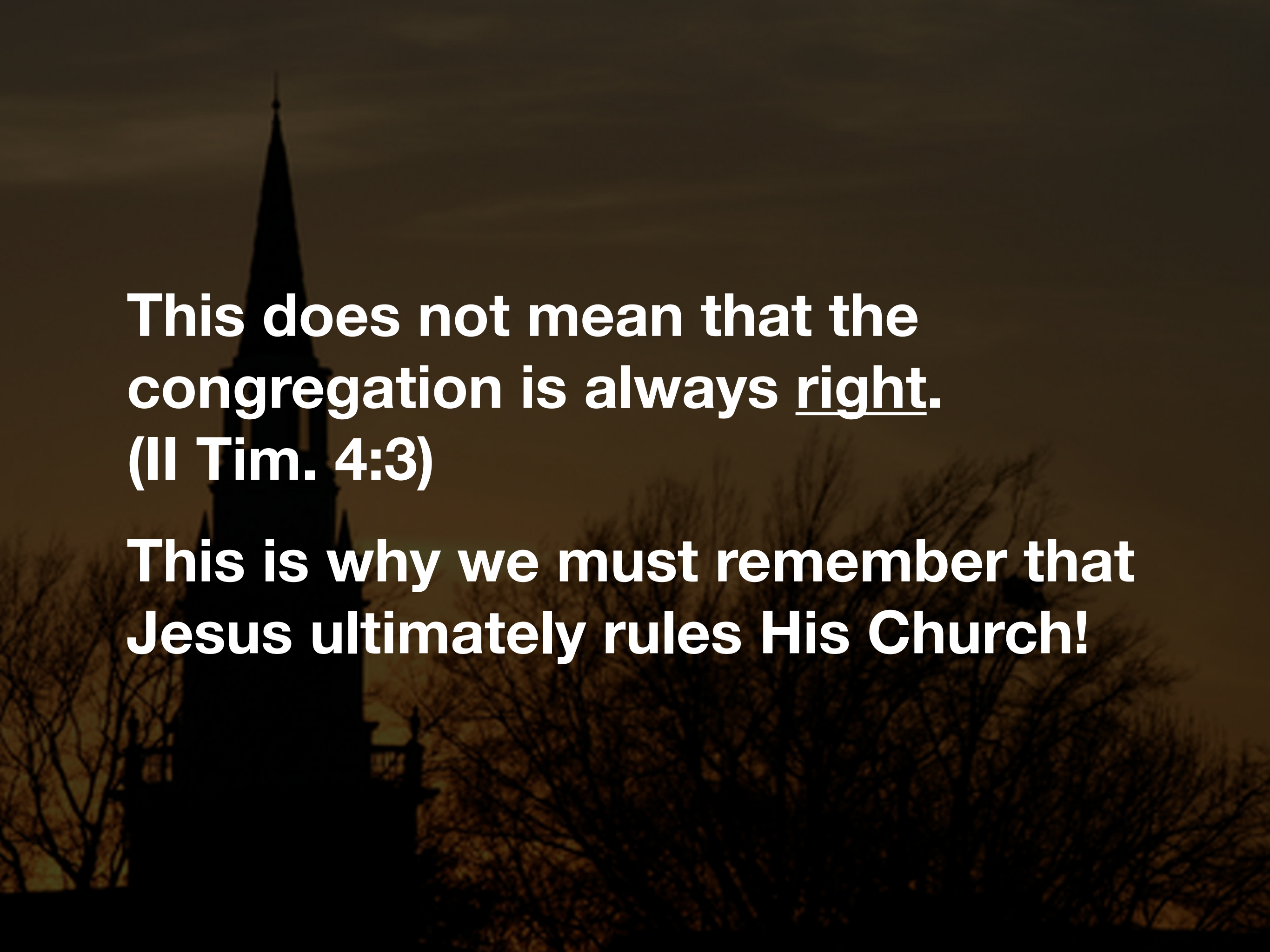
1. The Deacons serve
2. The Elders shepherd
3. The Congregation sanctions

Sanction - final permission; authorization (World English Dictionary)

A dark silhouette of a church steeple with a cross on top, set against a warm, orange-hued sunset sky. Bare tree branches are visible in the foreground and to the right.

Scripture is clear: The last and final court of appeal in the matter of life of the local church is, and should be, the local congregation itself.

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- The Congregation rules the church in matters of doctrine. (Gal 1:6, II Tim 4:3)
 - The Congregation rules the church in matters of discipline. (I Cor 5:4-13, Mt. 18:17)
 - The Congregation rules the church in matters of determining leaders. (Acts 6:3)



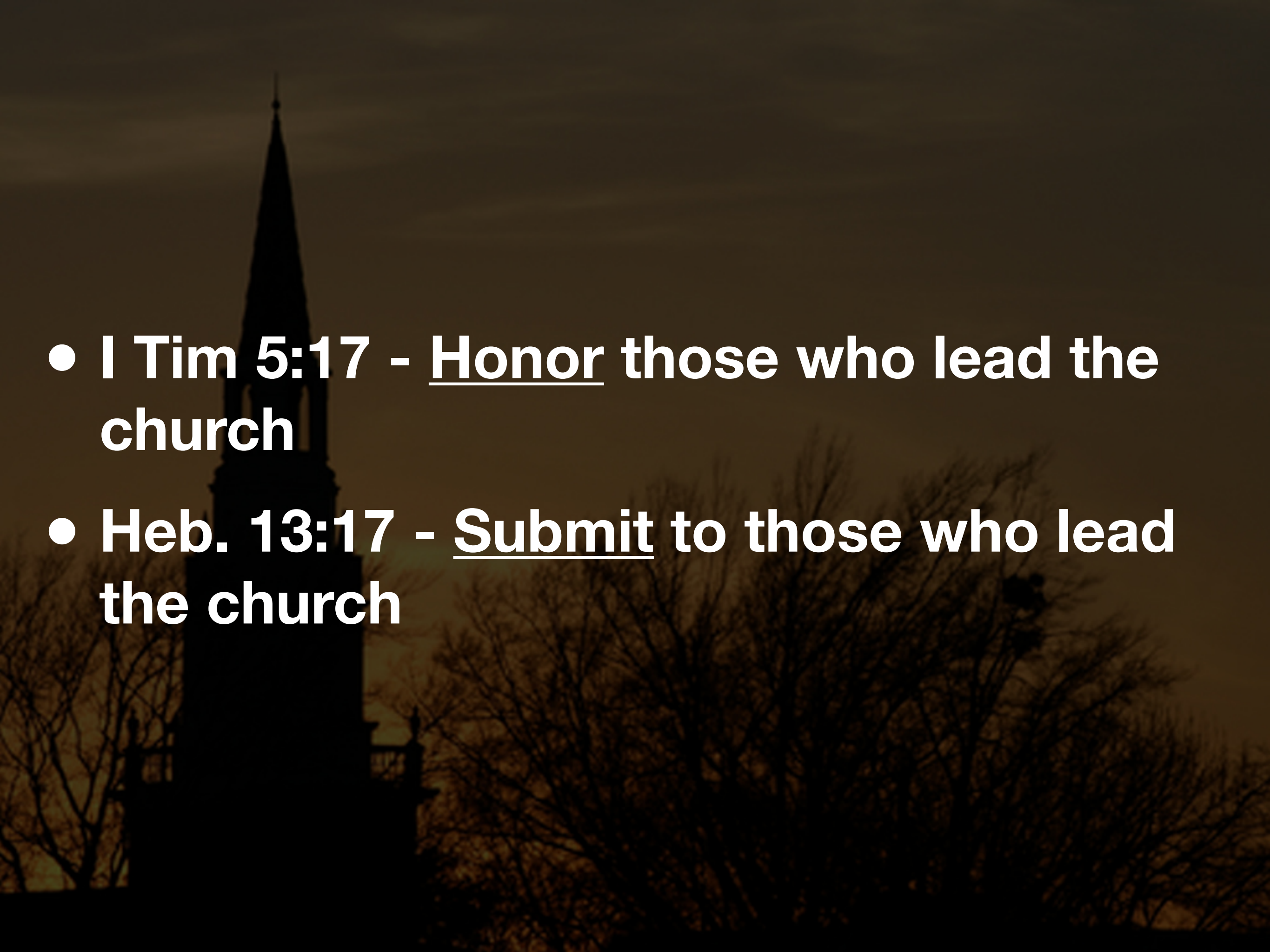
**This does not mean that the
congregation is always right.
(II Tim. 4:3)**

**This is why we must remember that
Jesus ultimately rules His Church!**

How does a congregational church work?

Clear but not Important	Both clear and Important
Neither clear nor important	Important but not clear*

***This is the quadrant where elders best server the church**

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- A dark silhouette of a church steeple with a cross on top, set against a warm, orange-brown sunset sky. Bare tree branches are visible in the foreground and to the right.
- **1 Tim 5:17 - Honor those who lead the church**
 - **Heb. 13:17 - Submit to those who lead the church**

A dark silhouette of a church steeple with a cross on top, set against a warm, orange-brown sunset sky. Bare tree branches are visible in the foreground and to the right.

**Trustworthy leadership + a trusting
congregation = good for God's people
and glory for God!**